

Oak Grove Baptist Church (site and cemetery)

1902

CH-775

Nanjemoy, vic.

Public

Oak Grove Baptist Church Site and Cemetery was established at the current site in 1902 and consists of a modern brick front-gable church and an earlier African American cemetery that faces east. The cemetery includes approximately 100 stones and is representative of African American cemeteries throughout southern Maryland including a range of grave markers such as marble tablets, hand-painted concrete crosses and tablets, cedar posts, and typical plantings. The cemetery includes approximately 100 stones. Oak Grove Baptist Church is one of four original African American Baptist churches in Charles County and the congregation is believed to have been established in 1883 as a mission by the congregation of the parent church, Mount Hope Baptist.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-775

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Oak Grove Baptist Church Site and Cemetery
other

2. Location

street and number 11220 Holly Springs Road not for publication
city, town Nanjemoy X vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Oak Grove Baptist Church
street and number 11220 Holly Springs Road telephone 301-246-4930
city, town Nanjemoy state MD zip code 20662-3013

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 70 p.171
city, town La Plata liber 24 folio 7

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-775

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Oak Grove Baptist Church Site and Cemetery is located on the east side of Holly Springs Road in the southwestern section of Charles County. The church was established at the current site in 1902 and consists of a modern brick front-gable church facing west that was built in 1986, and an earlier African American cemetery that faces east. The church stands on the site of an earlier church building that was originally erected in 1902. The cemetery is representative of African American cemeteries throughout southern Maryland including a variety of grave markers such as hand-painted concrete crosses and tablets, cedar posts and typical plantings including of yucca. The cemetery includes approximately 100 stones that are arranged informally. To the south of the property is a farm lane that once connected Holly Springs Road to Tayloe's Neck Road.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-775

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1883

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates 1902;1986

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Established at this site in 1902, Oak Grove Baptist Church site and cemetery is one of four original African American Baptist churches in Charles County and is believed to have been established as a mission by the congregation of the parent church, Mount Hope Baptist. The site is significant as one of the earliest African American congregations, and as a typical representation of African American cemeteries in Charles County.

Established in 1867 by Rev. A. A. Watts, Mount Hope Baptist Church was the founding church for three other African American Baptist communities including Oak Grove in Nanjemoy/Grayton (1883) as well as Pleasant Grove in Marbury/Chicamuxen (1907) and Little Zion in Hilltop (1880). All four of the earliest African-American Baptist churches in Charles County were clustered in the western section of Charles County and were likely influenced by the strong emphasis on missionary work at the Nanjemoy Baptist Church, which had been active in the region since the 1820's.

Oak Grove Baptist Church was founded on May 26, 1883 with Rev. Gaynor was the Pastor. Like many congregation established after the Civil War, members of Oak Grove first met in the former Oak Grove School established in the years after the Civil War to the north of the current site (1913 USGS). In May 1902, the church was rebuilt at its current location on the east side of Holly Springs Road under the direction of R.B. Ward. The current church building was erected in 1986.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-775

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 4

Acreage of historical setting 4

Quadrangle name Nanjemoy

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

the property is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 70 p. 171.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Charles County Planning

date 12/4/2003

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-775

Section 9 Page 1

Oak Grove Baptist Church Site and Cemetery

name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Major Bibliographic References:

Brown, Jack D., et al. *Charles County, Maryland, A History*.
Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.

Charles County Land Records, Charles County Courthouse, LaPlata, Maryland.

"Charles County, Maryland Tombstone Inscriptions and Name Index." Charles County Historical
Society. Southern Maryland Studies Center, College of Southern Maryland

Hardy, Cathy Currey. "Phase III Final Report Charles County Historic Sites Survey."
Charles County Planning. July 2002.

KCI Technologies, Inc. *Draft--Historic Context For the U.S. 301 Southern Corridor
Transportation Study*. August 1996.

Klapthor, Margaret Brown. *The History of Charles County, Maryland*.
LaPlata, MD: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.

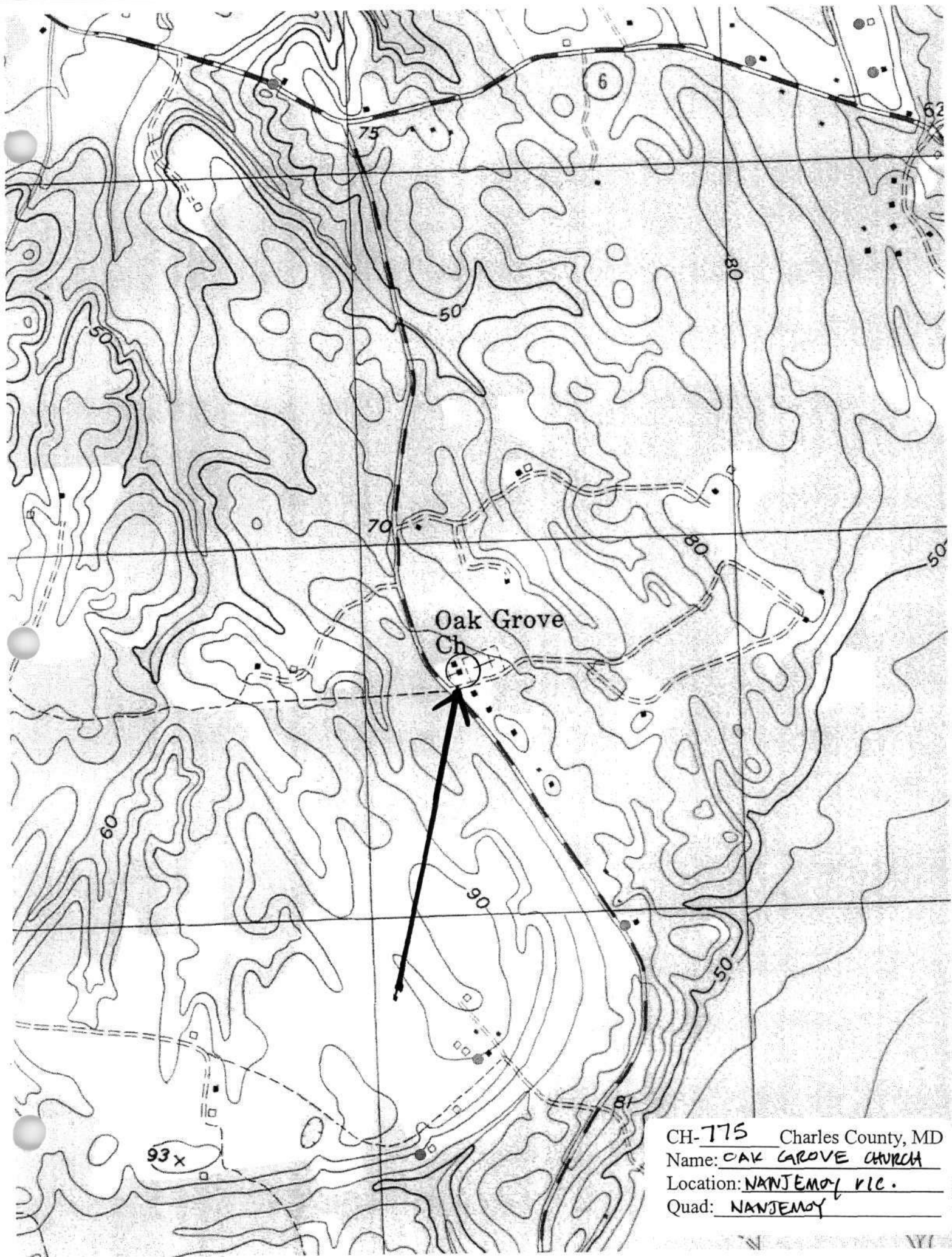
Lewis, J. Frank & Company. *The Maryland Directory*. 1880. Baltimore

Little, M. Ruth. *Sticks and Stones: Three Centuries of North Carolina Grave Markers*.
University of North Carolina. Chapel Hill. 1998.

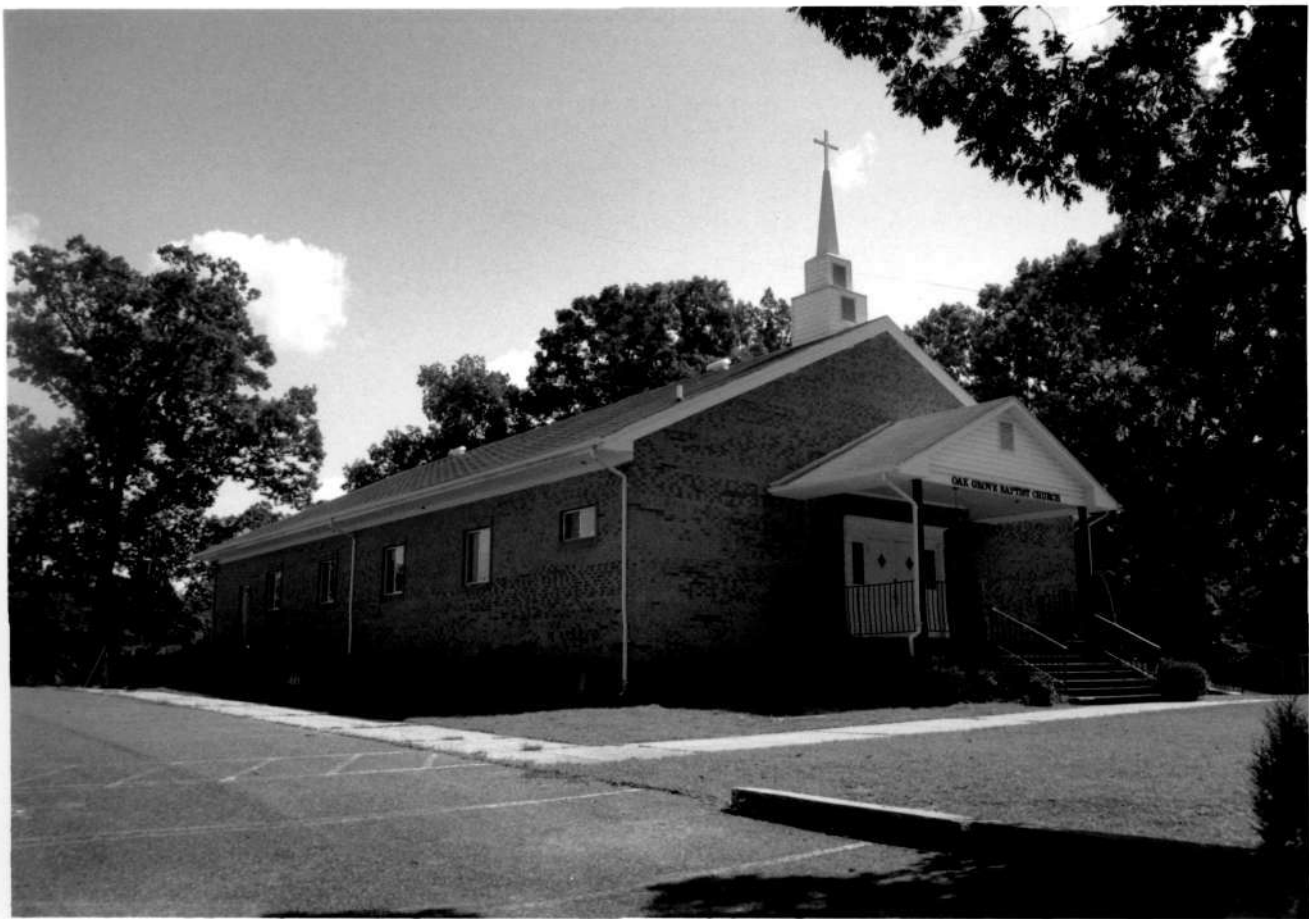
Maps

Griffith, Dennis. *Map of the State of Maryland Laid down from an actual Survey of all the
principal Waters, public Roads, and Divisions of the Counties therein....*Philadelphia, PA: J.
Tallance, Engraver, June 6, 1795.

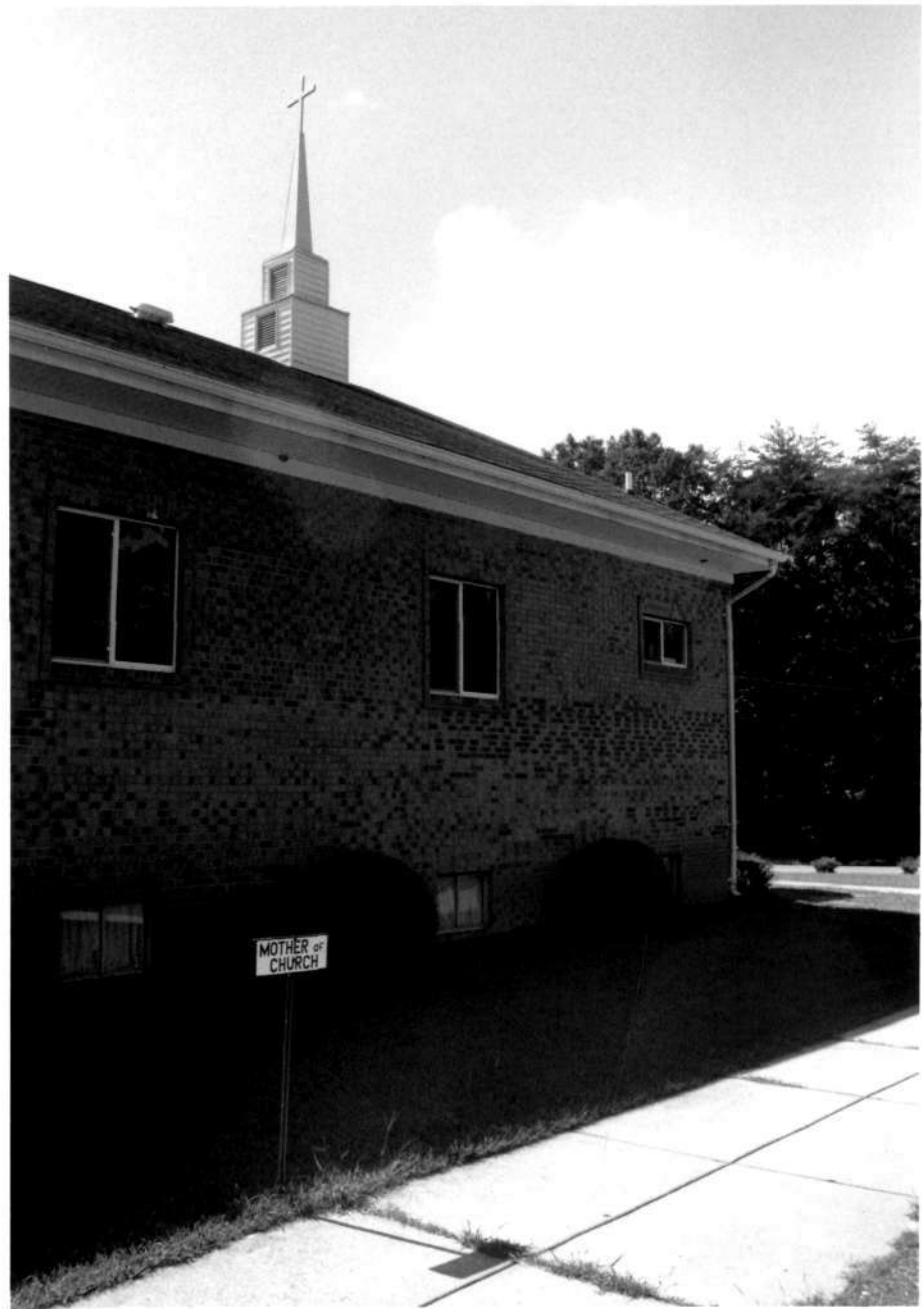
Martenet, Simon J. *Martenet's Map of Maryland and the District of Columbia*. Baltimore, MD:
Simon J. Martenet, C.E., 1865; revised 1885.



CH-775 Charles County, MD
Name: OAK GROVE CHURCH
Location: NANTJEMOY VIC.
Quad: NANTJEMOY



CH-775
OAK GROVE BAPTIST CH
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
10/2003
MD SAPO
LOOKING SE
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CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
10/2003/
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LOOKING 2 OF 4



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